

**TOWN OF GRANBY  
COMMISSION ON AGING  
SENIOR CENTER/YOUTH SERVICES BUILDING  
March 14, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Peter Barwick, Karen Hood, Kathryn Miller, Shirley Ryan, Patty Sansone, Nancy Scheetz, Bruce Sullivan, David Watkins; **Staff Present:** Sandra Yost

**GUESTS:** Jane Johnson, Donna Snyder

Dr. Barwick confirmed a quorum and began the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ON A MOTION BY** Bruce Sullivan, seconded by Patty Sansone, the Commission voted (5-0-0) to approve the minutes of December 14, 2015 as written.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

- December: Deborah Mullins for her assistance in creating the meditation and setback groups.
- January: Britt Horne for organizing Taste of the Valley.
- February: The ‘senior to senior’ cookie baking crew who baked and provided cookies to every senior at the high school on Valentine’s Day.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

a. Activities

- Marisa DeLuca, Program Assistant, has been exploring new opportunities for seniors, allowing them to use their creative talents and to contribute to local and far reaching communities. Some examples:
  - “Fanciful Flights” – a program focused on the mobiles of Karen Rossi.
  - Days for Girls - An international organization serving girls world-wide. Seniors met and created bags filled with feminine hygiene products for women in Africa. The kits allow girls to attend school without interruption.
  - A weekly coloring class.
- Lunch for the Mind will begin this week. The topic will be the Hoover Dam.
- The Civic Engagement Team is in the beginning phase of creating a program that would match seniors in the community who have odd jobs that need to be completed with a group or individual who could help them. If anyone is interested, the Civic Engagement Team is looking for input and assistance in

getting this together. Their next meeting is March 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.

- The Durable Medical Equipment Closet has seen an increase of over 80% in clients served over the past year. There is an average of 17 clients served and 26 items moved per month.

b. Transportation

- Ms. Yost is in the process of finishing the DOT grant.
- The minivan desperately needs to be replaced. Ms. Yost has done some research and found an organization that had purchased new vans, equipped with lift conversions, and is now selling their overstock. The estimated cost is \$35,000 and she asked the Senior Club for support in purchasing one of the vans.

**ON A MOTION BY** Patty Sansone, seconded by Kathryn Miller, the Commission voted (7-0-0) to endorse the Senior Center's purchase of a new mini-van.

The Senior Club presented Ms. Yost with a check for \$8,000 and the remainder will come from current funds in van donations.

- Kathryn Miller inquired if the Senior Center interfaces with TAP (Transportation Action Program), which provides transportation to medical appointments. The service is provided by volunteers who use their own vehicles, but they are unable to assist individuals in wheelchairs. When the Senior Center is unable to provide a ride for someone, TAP is contacted and TAP will contact the Center when assistance is needed for an individual in a wheelchair.

## **SENIOR CLUB**

- After the donation toward the new mini-van, the checkbook balance will be \$1,764.57.
- The town-wide mailing was very successful in raising funds. The Senior Club did not want to ask for additional assistance until the funds were used but with the current donation toward the mini-van, the Club will revisit the idea of another mailing.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Patty Sansone inquired about the present budget process and the replacement of the counter in the community room, which was discussed at the December meeting. Ms. Yost reported that the Senior Center's budget review was held last week. She put in a request for a counter in the capital budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year.
- David Watkins inquired about a strategic plan update. Ms. Yost stated that as part of the Center's re-accreditation last July, the strategic plan included term limits for members of the Commission, changing the VNA Director from a voting member to an ex officio member and increasing the role of the Commission on Aging in the advocacy of the Senior Center and needs of the seniors. To date, some Commission members stepped down upon completion of their term and the VNA Director is now an ex officio member.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Donna Snyder stated she has found that people don't know where to turn for assistance when a family member or friend is diagnosed with medical issues. Nancy Scheetz, VNA Executive Director, reported that she has a State resource book which includes information on health care agencies, home health aides, care advocates, etc. She also stated that individuals can contact the VNA or McLean as a resource. Ms. Yost stated the Center's community resource booklet needs to be gone through annually to make sure it is up-to-date.

**ON A MOTION BY** Dr. Barwick, seconded by David Watkins, the Commission voted (7-0-0) to to put together an ad hoc committee to address the issue of how best to provide information to individuals caring for seniors with health issues. The following individuals agreed to sit on the committee: Dr. Barwick, Patty Sansone, David Watkins, Nancy Sheetz and Donna Snyder. They will begin by looking at "what we have and what we want".

- There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of holding a health fair. The fall seems to be the best time and can be done in conjunction with providing flu shots. If it is done this fall, the Commission could provide an updated resource booklet.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**ON A MOTION BY** Dr. Barwick, seconded by Bruce Sullivan, the Commission voted (7-0-0) to adjourn at 2:35 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on April 11, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kane  
Recording Secretary